

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

EB-07 IO-13 PA-02 PRS-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIE-00 HEW-06

SSO-00 /109 W

----- 041996

O 311210Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0899

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CDRSETAG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ROME 17818

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: NORTHERN ITALY FLOOD

REF: STATE 268234

SETAF DTG 310305Z OCT 76.

1. HEAVY RAINS IN NORTHERN ITALY HAVE LED TO WIDE SPREAD FLOODING AND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE IN AREA. EXTENT AND DEGREE OF DESTRUCTION DOES NOT APPEAR THUS FAR TO MEASURE HIGH ON DISASTER SCALE. (IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUAL LOSSES OF COURSE STORY IS DIFFERENT).

2. SETAF INTERVENTION AT REQUEST OF MAYOR OF TORRI DI QUARTOSOLO (4 MILES FROM SETAF HQ ON SMALL TRIBUTARY OF BRENTA RIVER) WAS EMERGENCY EFFORT DESIGNED TO PREVENT SERIOUS FLOODING OF THE TOWN AND DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES. NEED WAS MINIMAL BUT URGENT. EMBASSY APPROVED SETAF RESPONSE. FORTY TROOPS WERE INVOLVED IN OPERATION (TWENTY-FIVE VOLUNTEERS) WHICH LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR ON OCTOBER 30, WHEN COMMUNITY AUTHORITIES INDICATED DANGER HAD PASSED. ADDED DETAIL CONTAINED REFTEL .

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3. SETAF HAS RECEIVED NO OTHER CALLS FOR HELP. ACCORDING

RECENT REPORT WEATHER HAS IMPROVED IN THE AREA AND WATERS ARE
RECEDING. UNLESS THERE IS SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN WEATHER
WE DO NOT EXPECT FURTHER NEED FOR EMERGENCY INTERVENTION U.S.
ASSETS.

4. THE PREVENTIVE AID FROM SETAF IN THIS INSTANCE WAS DESIGNED
TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IN A SITUATION OF CLEAR
AND PRESENT DANGER. IT SEEMS TO HAVE MADE THE DIFFERENCE.
THE RAPID AND EFFECTIVE HELP OFFERED BY GENERAL PUTNAM AND HIS
MEN WAS ANOTHER VALUABLE VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION TO THE ITALIAN
PEOPLE OF U.S. COMMITMENT. VOLPE

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